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**THE**  
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**GULL**  
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**JANUARY (11th Annual) MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 12th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, 2nd Floor, Room 19.

Annual reports will be presented and officers and directors elected for the coming year.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Hartford H. Keifer, Assistant Curator, Department of Entomology, California Academy of Sciences. Mr. Keifer's subject is "Life on West Mexican Islands," illustrated by motion pictures.

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**JANUARY FIELD TRIP** will be the usual visit to the wild waterfowl sanctuary at Lake Merritt, Oakland. It will be taken on Sunday, January 15th. San Francisco members will take Key Route boat at 9:00 a.m. and the Grand Avenue car on the 22nd Street train from the mole, leaving the car at Grand Avenue and Perkins Street, where the party will form at 9:45 a.m. and proceed to the enclosure on the nearby lake shore, to witness the feeding of the wild fowl at 10:00 a.m.

East Bay members will transfer from any traction main line to Grand Avenue or Lakeshore Avenue cars, which will take them to the above mentioned point.

The main object of the trip is to study waterfowl but some incidental land birds are always found. Those who wish to round out the day by exploring what is left of Trestle Glen should bring lunches.

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER MEETING:** The one hundred twenty-ninth regular meeting of the Association was held December eighth, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, with Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, president, in the chair; Mrs. Carl Smith, secretary; thirty-nine members and guests present.

Mr. D. D. McLean, Field Naturalist, of the California Fish and Game Commission, gave a most interesting talk on "The Winter Birds of the Sierras," illustrating same with splendid lantern slides and study skins.

Mr. McLean told how some birds like the Modoc Fox sparrow and the song sparrow migrate over the crest of the Sierras. The song sparrow found here in the winter time has the light coloring of the desert form. The great blue heron comes to a higher elevation at this season to feed on trout in the streams. We must remember in this connection that he compensates us for the fish by killing gophers in the alfalfa fields of the valleys. Virginia rail are more often seen in winter, as they run over the snow from one bunch of reeds to another, than in the summer. Prairie falcons and pigeon

hawks take their toll of robins and other small birds, following same from one feeding place to another. Bohemian wax wings seven hundred strong visited Coulterville, arriving December 16th and staying until March 16th. While in that locality they feed upon frozen apples in the orchards. They seem to come periodically about every ten years. The winter time is a good season to get intimate views of the pigmy, red-breasted and slender billed nuthatches, creepers, Williamson sap-suckers and others.



### A VACATION EXPERIENCE.

My trip took me into the southern Sierras. The birds encountered were the usual Sierran feathered folk but it is always pleasant to renew old acquaintances. The party left Sanger, fourteen miles south of Fresno, 9 a. m. July 1st, staging to Grant National Park, elevation 6675 ft. From the road meadow larks, shrikes, Valley quail, mocking birds, turkey vultures, California woodpeckers, California jays and mourning doves were seen.

In Grant Park and in the region from the park to Horse Corral Meadows birds were numerous, especially when compared to the region beyond. A white-headed woodpecker had a nesting hole in one of the posts a few yards from the studio. The hole was only about three feet from the ground and people were constantly passing. Robins, western tanagers, black-headed grosbeaks and crested jays made themselves quite at home in our open air kitchen. In fact, the cook had to frighten them away. When we were scraping our plates after dinner the tanagers and grosbeaks would stand at the hole and select choice morsels. This gave many of the members of the party not familiar with these birds a very good opportunity to get acquainted with them. Just because these birds were so accommodating and allowed themselves to be viewed at such close range some of the people developed an interest in birds which they would not otherwise have had, and with this good beginning tried to observe birds throughout the trip.

It was interesting to note which bird called earliest in the morning. Wherever we camped this honor always belonged to the wood pewee. The bird was a good alarm clock, calling at 3:30 a. m. The order of call in the park was wood pewee, olive sided flycatcher, robin, white headed woodpecker, crested jay, hermit thrush, mountain chickadee, red breasted nuthatch, fox sparrow and green tailed towhee. By the time all these were aroused there would be a general chorus.

The timber in the park is good and for some distance as we ascended on our way to Big Meadows the red firs were fine. Where these trees abound the ruby crowned kinglet and hermit thrush are heard, adding a great deal to one's pleasure tramping through the woods.

Just before reaching Big Meadows, elevation 7235 ft., western gnatcatchers were observed. This seems quite an elevation for the species, but in 1922 I observed gnatcatchers on brushy slopes near Sequoia National Park. Possibly these birds breed at a lower elevation as they are common nesting birds in the oaks of the foothills of this region and then for a while loaf and forage in the higher mountains. Among the tamarack pines at this camp Clark crows were numerous. The song of the Audubon warbler was of frequent occurrence while the little fellows were industriously working among the conifers. In this neighborhood we also had mountain blue birds (only females and young judging by their dull appearance), cassin purple finches, juncos and the other usual birds of the mountains.

At Summit Meadows, elevation 7900 ft., among red fir, we added Williamson sap-suckers to our list. These birds appeared quite numerous in this locality. On our return trip through this camp site we were again greeted by the calls of these birds. A nest was found at Horse Corral Meadows.

The young kept up an incessant noise calling for food. Both male and female birds were observed feeding but they seemed to feed at exceptionally long intervals so it was small wonder that the young were impatient. The nest was located in the dead top of a tall red fir.

We next descended into the canyon of the South Fork of the Kings River, elevation about 5000 ft. Along the river were willows, alders and cottonwoods while the timber consisted of exceptionally fine *libo cedrus* (incense cedar) yellow and sugar pines. The cliffs rise several thousand feet on either side. Here species were fewer and even the individuals seemed fewer. Along the cliffs white throated swifts could be heard and seen. Brewer black birds were in the cottonwoods, sparrow hawks called from the tops of *libo cedrus*, Cassin and warbling vireos called all day, and water ouzels and a kingfisher were at our camp site at the junction of Copper Creek and Kings River.

Going up the Paradise Valley Fork of the Kings River we saw red shafted flicker, black throated, grey and Calaveras warblers. We were ascending a dry slope with the characteristic vegetation of golden oak and single leaf pine. Later as the trail passed through red fir forests I heard the only russet backed thrush of my trip. Tolmie warblers became common. At our camp site among the aspen 6500 feet elevation the warbling vireo and tolmie warblers reigned supreme. On the mountain side at the back of our camp house wrens, green fox tailed towhees and fox sparrows were singing from the same tree with an occasional tolmie warbler song by way of variation. It is always interesting to find such "homey" birds as house wrens singing in among big boulders and brush of a mountain side.

Our next camp was among the junipers at Woods Creek, elevation 8700 feet. Here the robins sang the most wonderful evening song I had ever heard them sing. In the woods along the stream came the notes of wood pewees, olive-sided flycatchers and ruby crowned kinglets.

The next day we came into the country of the white crowned sparrow, Rae Lake, 10,566 feet elevation. I have often met these birds at Lake Tahoe at some 6200 feet elevation. On this trip, however, we did not hear them until we got close to 10 000 feet. Clark crows were much in evidence. The tamarack, foxtail and white bark pines were the only trees of the region.

Crossing Glen Pass, 12,500 feet, we encountered the Sierra rosy finch.

On the return trip, although we did not follow the same route, the birds at the various places in the same altitudes were the same.

Humming birds were scarce, possibly because we were making the trip at such an early date and many of the flowers that they visit were not in bloom as yet. We did see a few Calliope.

In all I observed sixty species. A few not mentioned before are mountain quail, red tailed hawk, chipping sparrow, spurred towhee, tree swallow, summer and pileolated warblers, Sierra creeper, slender billed nuthatch, golden crowned kinglet and red breasted sapsucker.

After a very happy trip our party arrived in Sanger, July 16th.

JUNEA W. (MRS. G. EARLE) KELLY.



THE DECEMBER FIELD TRIP was taken to Golden Gate Park, following the usual route with only little change. The morning started out very cold (unusual for California), and the intrepid hikers came, somewhat burdened with coats, which they began removing by the time the second lake was reached. The remainder of the day was a typical one for California—beautifully warm and clear. No doubt the early morning snap prevented many of the members from venturing out.

We skirted the north and second lakes; then over to the buffalo paddock and on to Spreckels Lake, past the Stadium and on a short ways to a little



## THE GULL

pond, where we sat on a sunny slope among the pine trees while we had lunch. This change, from eating lunch at the Japanese Tea Garden, as is usually done, was voted a most agreeable one. After lunch we circled Stow Lake, searching for birds as well as some of our party who became mislaid during the morning. We recovered them!

On the first lake we saw a loon, which was taken for a Pacific. When closely observing it, we were not so sure and referred to Hoffmann's book. After some discussion and close observations, we decided it was a red-throated. He behaved most agreeably—exhibiting himself at close range for some time, and then, when we thought we had lost him, he would bob up again, right before us. To satisfy any possible doubt in any of the members' minds, I examined the skins of both the Pacific and red-throated loons at the Museum of the University and found definitely, that it was the latter. This proved to be a "new bird," for some of the members, which always affords a thrill.

Near the second lake we found a freak fox sparrow, industriously working beside a normal one. On both sides and somewhat on the back there were large white patches, with another perfect triangularly shaped one, on the top of the head. We didn't try to identify the species! We were sorry not to find the snipe, which has been seen there recently.

Anyone who hasn't seen an albino ruddy, would find it worth while to visit Spreckels Lake, where there is a beautiful specimen, associating with other ruddys, as well as with redheads, canvas-backs and lesser scaups.

On Stow Lake we were much interested in a herring gull and a flock of beautiful buffle-heads. Also, just before we left the lake, we were surprised by a small floating object some distance away that resembled a brick in color. It flew toward the boat house and we hurried that way also. We found an exquisite duck—a cinnamon teal that wasn't a cinnamon teal; in all but one detail exactly as it should be—there was no blue speculum! Inasmuch as a search through the four volumes of "A Natural History of the Ducks," by Phillips, revealed no other species our bird might have been, I'll leave it to someone else to say whether we saw a teal or not.

Birds encountered were: Red-throated loon; American eared and pied-billed grebe; common white-fronted, honker Canada and Hutchins geese; common mallard, baldpate, American pintail, redhead, canvas-back lesser scaup, ring-necked, buffle-head and ruddy ducks; sharp-shinned hawk; Coast California quail; American coot; northern killdeer, glaucous-winged, norther western, American herring and California Gulls; Anna hummingbird; Monterey red-shafted flicker; black phoebe; Santa Cruz chestnut-backed chickadee, Pacific Coast bush-tit; Vigors Bewick wren; dwarf hermit thrush; ruby-crowned kinglet; Pacific Audubon warbler, San Francisco yellow-throat; San Francisco spotted towhee, fox sparrow, Oregon junco, Nuttall white-crowned, golden-crowned and Santa Cruz song sparrows. The regular exotics were on Stow Lake. Thirty-nine species.

Members in attendance: Mesdames Bracelin, Futhey, Stephens; the Misses Carnahan, Cohen, Crum, Pettit; Dr. Card; Messrs Bryant, de Fremery, Smith. As guests: Miss Krajewski; Messrs. Pettit and Stephens. Eleven members and three guests.

M. BRACELIN.

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## AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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